

Atty. Dkt. No. 041673-2092

REMARKS

Claims 2 through 6, 8 through 14, 16 through 21, and 23 through 64 are now pending in this application.

In the Office Action, a restriction requirement is made with respect to claims 2-6, 8-14, 16-21 and 23-67 as follows:

Group I: Claims 2-6, 8-13, 27-42, 52-61, drawn to a nucleic acid molecule encoding a chimeric TNFa ligand polypeptide, including vectors, genetic constructs, host cells and processes of producing said chimeric TNFa ligand polypeptide, classified in Class 435, subclasses 252.3, 320.1, 326, 455 and in Class 536, subclass 23.1.

Group II: Claims 14, 16-21, 24-26, 62, drawn to a chimeric TNFa, classified in Class 530, subclass 350.

Group III: Claims 43-46, drawn to methods of increasing the concentration of a ligand capable of binding to a TNFa receptor by introducing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a chimeric TNFa polypeptide, classified in Class 435, subclass 440.

Group IV: Claim 47, drawn to methods of inducing apoptosis of a cell by introducing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a chimeric TNFa ligand polypeptide, classified in Class 435, subclass 440.

Group V: Claims 48, 64, drawn to methods of inducing activation of an immune system cell by introducing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a chimeric TNFa ligand polypeptide, classified in Class 4

Group VI: Claims 49-50, 65-66, drawn to methods of treating neoplasia in a patient by introducing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a chimeric TNFa ligand polypeptide into a neoplastic cell, classified in Class 435, subclass 440.

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Group VII: Claims 51, 67, drawn to methods of treating neoplasia in a patient by introducing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a chimeric TNF α ligand polypeptide directly into a tumor of a patient, classified in Class 514, subclass 44.

Without traverse, Applicants elect the claims of Group I for examination.

The Office Action further requires an election as between species of the claimed molecules with respect to the domains present in each molecule, and species from which they are obtained. In this respect, Applicants elect the species of polynucleotide encoding a chimeric molecule in which Domain III is a fragment of human CD154 Domain III lacking a metalloproteinase cleavage site and Domain IV is from human TNF α . For purposes of expedited prosecution, claims including limitations not directly consonant with the species election made have been withdrawn, without prejudice.

Lastly, the Office Action suggests clarifying and clerical amendments to the claims for purposes of expediting prosecution. Applicants thank the Examiner for his suggestions in this respect, and accordingly submits the foregoing amendments to the claims.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

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No fees are believed to be due in connection with this Amendment. If, however, additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees, excepting any issue fee, to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 10-21-2005

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